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"THE NEW BOOKS."

This is the title of an article in the official paper of Monday night last, (the 29th December,) the object of which is to show that the public debt of the United States was increased during the Administration of Mr. TYLER, which it pleases the official editor to consider as a *Whig* Administration, by the amount of \$10,363,717.87. This increase the editor charges upon Whig inefficiency and Whig extravagance; stating that "Whig promises of retrenchment and economy end in millions of debt," and that "this is the manner in which the Democracy predicted they would fulfil their boastful undertakings."

We might perhaps have permitted this misstatement of Whig deeds to pass, as we do many others, without notice, had not the government paper accompanied it with the intimation that its table was "compiled from the records of the Treasury Department, and can be relied upon."

To show how far the statement is to be "relied upon," we will go further back with our investigation than the commencement of Mr. VAN BUREN's Administration in 1837, because we shall be enabled to show by a reference to public documents that whatever increase took place in the public debt during the "Whig" Administration, as the government paper calls it, from 1841 to 1845, was owing to the excessive expenditures of the "Democratic" Administration of Mr. VAN BUREN, from March, 1837, to March, 1841, when the people placed the reins of Government in other hands.

By consulting page 5, public document No. 2, of the first session of the Twenty-seventh Congress, it will be found that, "from the year 1816 to 1837," a period of twenty-one years, the revenues constantly exceeded the expenditures. The average annual surplus during that time was \$11,464,226.87, making an aggregate excess of \$240,748,764.27. Within that time there was applied to the extinction of the national debt \$208,792,127.44, and there was deposited with the States \$28,101,644.91, and there remained, on the 1st of January, 1837, in the Treasury of the United States, including the fourth instalment due to the States, a surplus of \$17,109,473.26.

"There were also outstanding debts due to the Treasury, from other sources than those of ordinary revenue, and which were paid between 1st January, 1837, and 4th March, 1841, amounting to \$9,124,747.00.

"There were also issued within that period, and outstanding on the 4th March, 1841, Treasury notes to the amount of \$6,648,512.40.

"Making the aggregate available means which were in the Treasury on the 1st of January, 1837, and which came into it prior to the 4th March, 1841, over and above the current revenues, \$18,882,732.66."

The amount left in the Treasury on the 4th of March, 1841, when the Whig Administration of Gen. HARRISON commenced, was \$72,718.46, showing that the Democratic Administration of Mr. VAN BUREN expended during its continuance, \$31,310,014.20, or \$7,827,503.55, annually, over and above the ordinary revenue of the country. A pretty commentary, this, upon Democratic economy! Here is a Democratic President commencing his official duties with a surplus of seventeen millions of dollars in the Treasury; receiving during his continuance in office nine millions more from other than ordinary sources; borrowing, by issuing Treasury notes, over five and a half millions besides; and leaving in the Treasury, as means wherewith his Whig successor was to carry on the Government, little more than half a million of dollars! "Thus," in the language of the document to which we have referred, "were the expenditures pushed beyond the amount of the revenue. They were made to absorb the surplus in the Treasury and the outstanding debts due to the United States, so that the Treasury was, on the 4th March, 1841, exhausted of its means, and subject to heavy and immediate liabilities. It was already burdened with a debt incurred in time of peace, and without any adequate resources except the authority granted by law to augment that debt."

Such was the position of affairs when the Administration of the Whig President, Gen. HARRISON, commenced. Here was seventeen millions of dollars to commence operations with. Here was no prospective receipt of nine millions of dollars more from extra sources. No; these two amounts had been expended, a debt of \$5,648,000 contracted, and a paltry half million of dollars left in the Treasury! Was it not time that a "set of new books" should be opened in the Departments at Washington, and that confusion and extravagance should give place to regularity and economy? If the Whigs do "proclaim" that "new books" ought to be opened at the Treasury, had they not good reason to do so?

The official editor says, however, that these new books having been opened, an inspection of them shows that the public debt increased during the late Administration in the sum of \$10,363,717.87. Now it will be found that, in June, 1841, the Secretary of the Treasury reported (see Senate document of that session, No. 10) that there was then an aggregate of debts and deficits (created by the preceding Administration) to be provided for, "in this and the ensuing year," of \$12,088,215.18. This was a legacy of debt and liability bequeathed to the "Whig" Administration by Mr. VAN BUREN's Democratic Administration. Now, if this has been paid off, and the national debt (taking the "Union's" figures) has been increased only \$10,363,717.87, then certainly the Whigs, instead of adding anything to the public debt from 1841 to 1845, contrived, though the control of the Government passed out of their hands almost as soon as it got into them, to reduce the public debt (notwithstanding the deficiency of the revenue in 1841 and 1842) nearly two millions below the amount of the debt and liabilities which

they found in existence on the 4th March, 1841. Yes, such is the simple fact. If Mr. VAN BUREN's Administration had provided for all the debts which it contracted, as it ought to have done, or had left any revenue out of which they could have been paid, then the Whigs (under all their disadvantages, and taking the "Union's" calculations) would have left the public debt two millions of dollars less than they found it; and this, too, without having had the advantage of a single dollar of extra revenue, whilst the Democratic Van Buren Administration managed to get rid of nearly thirty-two millions of dollars of funds of that description.

Besides, at the close of the last Administration the Whig policy left nearly eight millions of dollars in the Treasury, while the Democrats left only \$572,718, making a difference of over forty millions of dollars between the economy of the Democratic and of the Whig Administrations, in favor of the latter and against the former.

Truly, the official editor deserves the thanks of his party for having opened this discussion.

MARYLAND.

The Legislature of the State of Maryland convened at Annapolis, agreeably to law, on Monday last, and on the following day both Houses were duly organized for business.

The Senate re-elected WILLIAM WILLIAMS as the President of that body, and JOSEPH H. NICHOLSON Clerk; and the House of Delegates chose as its Speaker WILLIAM S. WATERS, and GEORGE G. BREWER Clerk. There are Whig majorities in both branches of the Assembly.

A proposition has already been made on the subject of "Reform," in the shape of a motion to elect a committee to inquire into the expediency of taking a vote of the people on the question of calling a Convention to revise the State Constitution. But this proposition, being considered premature, in advance of the Governor's Message and other business necessarily attendant upon organization, was laid upon the table.

The Message of Governor PRATT was expected to be laid before the Legislature yesterday.

SOUTH AMERICA.

In giving accounts by the late arrival from Buenos Ayres, the New York Sun says that several numbers of the *Diario* are filled with a correspondence between the Argentine Secretary of State, the English and French Ministers, and the United States Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. WILLIAM BRENT. The Anglo-French proposed a peace, but not on terms honorable to the Argentines. Of course this was refused; and in one of the Secretary's letters to the French Minister, we find the following:

"The undersigned would also manifest to your Excellency, and to his Excellency the Minister Plenipotentiary of her British Majesty, that this Government has already announced the dignified and friendly interposition of the gentleman Chargé d'Affaires of the United States, that the Government has accepted it, and that, in such a case, it would not be able to take into consideration any incident or circumstance, in connection with subjects of pacification, without the concurrence and participation of said Chargé d'Affaires; nor will this Government fail to fulfill an obligation to which it is so strongly bound by considerations and exigencies of great weight; for in no case would it wish to unite the bonds of friendship with which it preserves the relations of a perfect understanding with the Government of the United States."

The number of the forces of the English and French allies at Montevideo is 2,390 men.

GEORGIA.

The Legislature of the State of Georgia adjourned last Thursday. The Senate, in which the Democrats had a majority of two or three votes, refused to go into an election for a United States Senator. Of the acts of the Legislature we condense the following from the Savannah Republican:

The tax law of 1842-43 was so amended as to tax all agencies and individuals that represent the interests of banks of other States within the limits of Georgia. The amount exacted is one-fourth of one per centum on the amount of exchange bought or sold, &c.

The existing law in regard to the granting of lands was also amended. The present rate (25) is retained until the 10th of February, when the price is to be reduced to \$10, instead of \$5, as contemplated by the act of 1843. It is hoped that this change may be of material service to the treasury.

The bill for the extension of the Western and Atlantic Railroad to Cross Plains was passed. It authorizes an issue of the bonds of the road for this purpose to the amount of \$60,000 per annum. These bonds are predicated upon the profits of the road.

The bill exempting the wages of journeymen mechanics and laboring men from garnishment has become a law.

All the bills incorporating manufacturing companies finally passed. The restrictions imposed upon them are regarded as merely nominal, if they do not hold out actual inducements to capitalists to invest their means in this particular branch of industry. Each stockholder is bound for the debts of the company in proportion to the amount of his stock; but the debts are at no time to exceed half the amount of the capital actually paid in; so that, unless there is a positive violation of the charter, no stockholder can lose more than half the amount of his investment.

Upon the whole (says the Republican) we are inclined to think that this Legislature has done better than the public had any right to anticipate. Every important measure proposed by the administration, except the tax bill, has been carried. The court bill, the trust-fund bill, the central bank bill, the several railroad bills, the manufacturing bills—every thing except the tax bill and the women's bill have finally passed. Is it not singular that these two measures should have fallen together? The one was intended to "equalize the burdens of the people, the other to recognize the rights of a class without whom the world would be a wilderness"—and a very barren one at that.

An extract of a letter dated at Lima on the 7th of September states that the United States squadron have all left there for Honolulu, to take in provisions, and from thence proceed to the coast of Mexico. The country remained in perfect tranquillity, and was likely to remain so, unless a disturbance should take place with Bolivia, of which there was some appearance.

IMPORTANT DECISION.—Judge POPE, of the United States District Court for Illinois, has decided, in a case where a tax-title was set up against the patentee, that a sale made under the revenue law of 1838 and 1839, where the sale had been made by one Sheriff and the deed executed by his successor in office, was invalid and conferred no title; there being no authority in the act for the second Sheriff to execute a deed for lands sold by his predecessor. The decision, if sustained by the United States Supreme Court, will affect many titles throughout the State.

The Hon. HENRY CLAY left Ashland a few days since for New Orleans, on private and professional business. He expects to be gone several months, and may probably visit Cuba during the winter.

NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW YORK, DECEMBER 30, 1845.

The rumors from Washington, which daily reach this city, are so variable and conflicting, that no dependence whatever can be placed on a title of them. One advantage, however, is derived from them. They are making a strong impression upon the public mind that the Administration never contemplated a war with Great Britain on the subject of Oregon; that their sole object was to create political capital by defiance and menace. They anticipate a check in the Senate to their projected measures for creating difficulties; and to effect this, they rely upon a few of their own party uniting with the Whigs, and thus preserving the peace of the country. Such opinions are rapidly gaining ground in this community, inasmuch that every tyro in politics will laugh in your face when you talk to him of war.

There is another feeling which seems to be growing in the community, and especially in the Whig ranks. They say, as the President and his followers are striving to make political capital out of the present state of the times, indulge them. Let no opposition be made to their war measures. Their Loco-foco majorities have all they require. Let war measures will necessarily require the means of defence. To procure these money to a large amount must be obtained. All these things are perfectly understood by the Administration, and before they will hazard a war, they will hearken to the voice of reason and common sense. Whether this is good logic, or would be sound policy, is a distinct question. It is certain, however, that many intelligent men entertain and are propagating these sentiments.

The *Nashua Gazette* states that the West India Mail Company have fourteen splendid steamers of from 1,200 to 1,500 tons burden, which form a semi-monthly line, running between England, Bermuda, Madeira, South America, Mexico, and the principal West India Islands. Every one of these vessels, it is said, by a contract with the English Government, is built expressly for a war steamer, and can be converted into one in a few days. Each vessel is provided with duplicates of its machinery; a portion of its armament is stowed in the hold, and she carries constantly an officer of the English Navy, who is authorized to take command of her in certain contingencies. Depots of coal, too, in immense quantities, are found at St. Thomas, Bermuda, Grenada, Kingston, Havana, Vera Cruz, and other ports, some of which are within twenty-four hours' sail of our own coast. The same arrangement is said to exist with the Cunard and other Mail Companies. The *Gazette* adds: "We have seen it somewhere stated that the number of steamers included in this arrangement with the Government of Great Britain is more than sixty."

Senator LEVY, of Florida, has rendered himself somewhat conspicuous by his proposition to purchase Cuba. In making the proposition, it is said, he acted without authority, and even without consulting the Loco-foco leaders. It is rumored, also, that President POLK is greatly dissatisfied with the movement of the Senator, and that he has so expressed himself to his political adherents, who make no secret of the sentiments entertained by the President on this subject.

The harmonious Democracy of Tennessee appear to be somewhat convulsed. They are afflicted with spasmodic affections in relation to their newly elected Senator, Mr. TURNEY. Thirty-one members of the Legislature have denounced Senator TURNEY as a traitor to the mild and benignant reign of King Caucus. But the thirty-one do not stop here. They add: "In our deliberate judgment, Mr. TURNEY has forfeited the respect and confidence of his party, and in this sentiment we have the fullest assurance that we have the entire concurrence of every true Democrat."

This, I presume, is intended also as a slap at that portion of the party which refuses to join in the denunciation. On Tuesday, the 6th of January, the Legislature of this State will convene at Albany. It will probably be one of the most uninteresting and least important sessions that has occurred in many years. Delegates to a Convention to form a new Constitution are to be chosen in April next. I say to form a new Constitution, because, though nominally to amend the present fundamental law, I do not believe that the modern reformers will consent to spare a time-honored sentence of the instrument. The older a section or clause may be, the stronger, with them, the reason for its destruction. As all parties are looking with some anxiety to the Convention, it may fairly be presumed that there will be but little legislation this winter, and that strictly of a local character. While the self-styled Reformers and Levellers are managing and intriguing to secure the election of suitable Delegates to the Convention to accomplish their objects, the fanatics will take charge of the Legislature, and urge upon that honorable body the passage of laws to correct the morals of the people.

No man living is a warmer friend of the Temperance cause than your correspondent; no man is more sincerely gratified with the progress it has made; but I do not admit that a reformed drunkard has, because he has been a drunkard, any special privilege or right to assail and traduce those who have never made beasts of themselves, but who have used and continue to use liquor in their families moderately, and as reasonable men ought to use it. The temperance cause is becoming a trade. When that shall be the case, its influence and its usefulness will soon be gone.

I have been led to these remarks in reflecting on the measures which will be brought before our Legislature at the approaching session. Among them is one, the object of which is to prevent the sale of spirituous liquors in the city of New York. Now, I repeat, I do not believe in legislating any people into morality; nor do I believe that any intelligent man in the community will have the hardihood to assert that the temperance cause would have advanced as it has done if, at the beginning, a reluctance had been placed on the enactment of laws such as are now sought.

One remark more and I have done with the subject. Many of the men who are advocating the passage of a law restraining the sale of liquors belong to the class of "reformed" others are selfish partisans, hoping to make political capital for their own purposes by mounting the temperance hobby. What is true in this State is true elsewhere. Let every man, therefore, in his own vicinity, notice the brawlers on this subject, examine their general characters and probable motives, and he will be surprised to find how few there are embarking in this cause with motives purely philanthropic, and how many have sinister views. Away, then, with all legal enactments to promote the cause of temperance. Let it rest, as it has heretofore done, on the advice and persuasion of the pastor, on the example of respectable citizens, and on the conviction of the drunkard that he is sinning against his own soul, and the peace, prosperity, and happiness of his family and friends.

A CALM OBSERVER.

DEBATE IN THE SENATE.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1845.

OREGON.

The following resolutions, offered yesterday by Mr. HANNEGAN, coming up:

1. Resolved, That the country included within the parallel of forty-two degrees and fifty-four degrees forty minutes north latitude, and extending from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, known as the Territory of Oregon, is the property, and part and parcel, of the United States.

2. Resolved, That there exists no power in this Government to transfer its soil and the allegiance of its citizens to the dominion, authority, control, and subjection of any foreign Power, Prince, State, or Sovereignty.

3. Resolved, That the abandonment or surrender of any portion of the Territory of Oregon would be an abandonment of the honor, character, and the best interests of the American people.

The resolutions having been read—

Mr. HANNEGAN rose and said that, as the Senate was not at present full, he would ask that these resolutions be made the special order for some future day, and he would name next Monday week as the day.

Mr. ARCHER suggested to the Senator from Indiana that sufficient time ought to be allowed, before the resolutions were brought up, for the Senator to make a statement, if he thought proper, in relation to the subject.

Mr. HANNEGAN thereupon moved that the resolutions be printed, and made the special order for the third Monday in January.

Mr. CALHOUN said he did not rise to oppose this motion, but he requested that the Senator would permit him to make a few preliminary remarks before submitting the amendments he intended to move to the resolutions now before the Senate.

Mr. President, (said he,) though I cannot give my support to these resolutions, I am very much gratified that they have been moved by the Senator from Indiana. Whatever objections there may be to them, they have at least the merit of being direct, open, and manly. They deny, in direct terms, the authority of this Government to make a treaty in reference to the Oregon territory, and denounce, as I understand them, by implication, the propositions that have been already made by our Government to settle the boundary by a division along the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude.

The Senator should have said that the boundary can only be settled therewith by force of arms; and should this be the case, and a war be commenced between this country and Great Britain, no peace can ever take place between the two countries but by our dictation at the cannon's mouth.

Mr. President, the vote upon these resolutions will draw a broad line, which cannot be mistaken, between those who are in favor of settling the question by an appeal to arms, and those in favor of a more pacific course. I myself am in favor of a pacific course—of an adjustment, if possible, by negotiation; and under these views and impressions, Mr. President, I have prepared a series of resolutions antagonistic to those of the Senator from Indiana, and move for their adoption.

Resolved, That the power of making treaties embraces that of settling and fixing boundaries between the territories and possessions of the United States and those of other Powers, in cases of conflicting claims between them in reference to the same.

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a singular course pursued upon Oregon matters, and I must think the Senate one moment in relation to it; it contrasts so strongly and so widely with the course pursued upon a precisely similar question, the annexation of Texas. Texas and Oregon were both the same instant, and created in the same cradle—the Baltimore Convention. They were adopted at the very same instant throughout the land, and not a moment was allowed to be lost whilst Texas was hurriedly brought into the Union, while the peculiar friends of Texas did all they could to strangle Oregon.

Sir, there is a fatal blunder, the people see and comprehend. It is a most singular state of things; and here we are told that we must be careful, and not come in collision with Great Britain about a disputed boundary! But if it were with feeble Mexico that we were about to come in collision, we would then hear no such cautions. There was a question of disputed boundary between this country and Mexico, and those who have a right to know something of the history of that boundary told us that our rights extended only to the river Nueces. How did we find the friends of Texas moving on that occasion? Did they halt for a moment at the Nueces? No, sir, at a single bound they cross the Nueces, and their war-horses prance upon the banks of the Rio del Norte. There was no negotiation then; we took the whole; but when Oregon is concerned, it is all proper and right to give away an Empire, if England asks it. So far as Oregon is concerned, I, for one, representing the people I do, will never vote for any treaty yielding an inch of ground below 54 degrees and 40 minutes north.

Mr. CALHOUN said he merely rose to allude to a single remark which applied to himself personally. The Senator from Indiana had endeavored to draw a contrast between his (Mr. C.'s) course upon Texas, and his course upon Oregon. Upon this, the views which governed me (said Mr. C.) upon that question, govern me also upon this. I pursued in reference to Texas what I conceived to be the best course. If I acted boldly and promptly on that occasion, it was because boldness and promptness were necessary to success. It was the greatest error of my life to delay, and I regret it. I regret it, I say, because I am for more deliberate measures on this occasion, it is not because I am not a friend to Oregon. On the contrary, Oregon has no better friend than myself; there is no one who would venture more to save it. But it is asked why I do not pursue the same course of action in regard to Texas. If the gentleman will refer to my remarks in 1843; he will find that the views which governed me then are the same with those which govern me now. I believe that precipitancy will lose you Oregon forever—no, not forever; but it will lose you Oregon in the first struggle, and then it will require another struggle hereafter when we become stronger to regain it.

I will now answer this question now. I am prepared, when it comes up for discussion, to show, if argument can show, that the principle involved in these resolutions, so far from gaining Oregon, will for the present lose every inch of that territory; and it is on that account, as much from the fear of losing Oregon as from the desire of avoiding war, that I have proposed amendments to the Senator's resolutions. Sir, if my advice had been pursued we should never have been involved in this controversy at all. I now act under circumstances not produced by myself, and I will do the best I can to save the territory of Oregon, which I hold as valuable as the Senator from Indiana himself can do. If you indicate a comparison between any of the friends of Oregon, and the friends of Texas, it is a comparison which I would as soon defend as the Senator's resolutions. Sir, if my advice had been pursued we should never have been involved in this controversy at all. 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